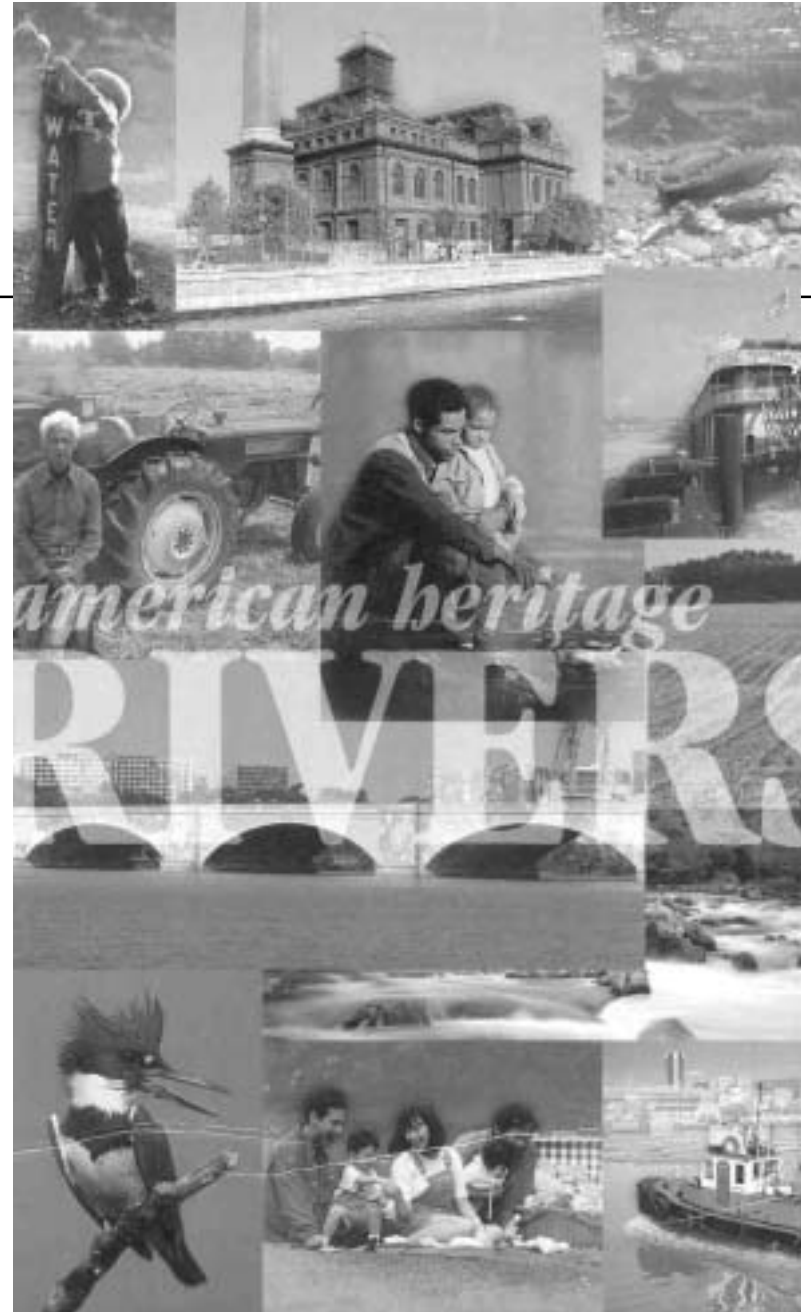


AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS



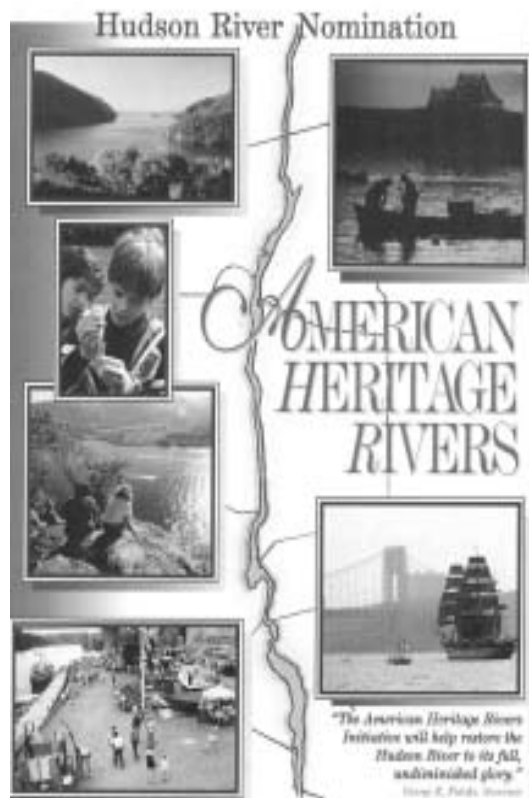
# A brief history

- ***Feb. 1997*** - President Clinton announces initiative in State of the Union address
- ***Sept. 1997*** - President signs E.O. 13061
- ***Dec. 1997*** - 126 nominations submitted
- ***June 1998*** - Advisory Committee recommends 10 rivers
- ***July 1998*** - President designates 14 American Heritage Rivers

# 3 objectives

- **Environmental Protection & Natural Resources Conservation**
- **Historical & Cultural Resources Preservation**
- **Economic Development & Community Revitalization**

# Nominations



- 126 nominations from 46 states
- Widespread support from..
  - ◆ nearly 200 members of Congress
  - ◆ more than 500 mayors and
  - ◆ 21 governors
- Congressional “veto” provided

# 14 designated rivers...

- Blackstone-Woonasquatucket- MA, RI
- Connecticut River - CT, VT, NH, MA
- Cuyahoga River - OH
- Detroit River - MI
- Hanalei - HI
- Hudson - NY
- Mississippi, Lower - TN, LA
- Mississippi, Upper - MO, IL, IA, WI, MN
- New River - NC, VA, WV
- Potomac-DC, MD, PA, VA, WV
- Rio Grande- TX
- Susquehanna/Lackawanna - PA
- St. John's River - FL
- Willamette - OR

# These rivers are urban



**Detroit River**  
Detroit, MI



**Upper Mississippi**  
Minneapolis, MN



**Upper  
Susquehanna**  
Wilkes Barre, PA

**But most  
are also  
rural . . .**



**Cuyahoga River  
Between Cleveland & Akron, OH**



**New River  
North Carolina**

# Historical. . .



**Blackstone River  
Historic Mill - 1874**

**Lower Mississippi River  
Levee, 1879**



**Cuyahoga River  
Mouth of river Cleveland, Ohio  
1874**





# And Cultural



**Hanalei - Native Hawaiian Dancers**

# Benefits to Rivers

- **National Recognition**
- **River Navigator**
- **Federal Assistance - Teams**
  - ◆ In Washington
  - ◆ Along the river - “Pilots”
- **Focused attention to their needs**
  - ◆ Technical assistance
  - ◆ Funding assistance

# The benefits can be tangible...



**Connecticut River - Vice President Al Gore announces grants,  
receives map from Connecticut River  
Watershed Council Director Whitty Sanford, July 1999**

# A process



**Lower Mississippi  
DOI Secretary Bruce  
Babbitt introduces  
River Navigator  
Robert Innes July 1999**



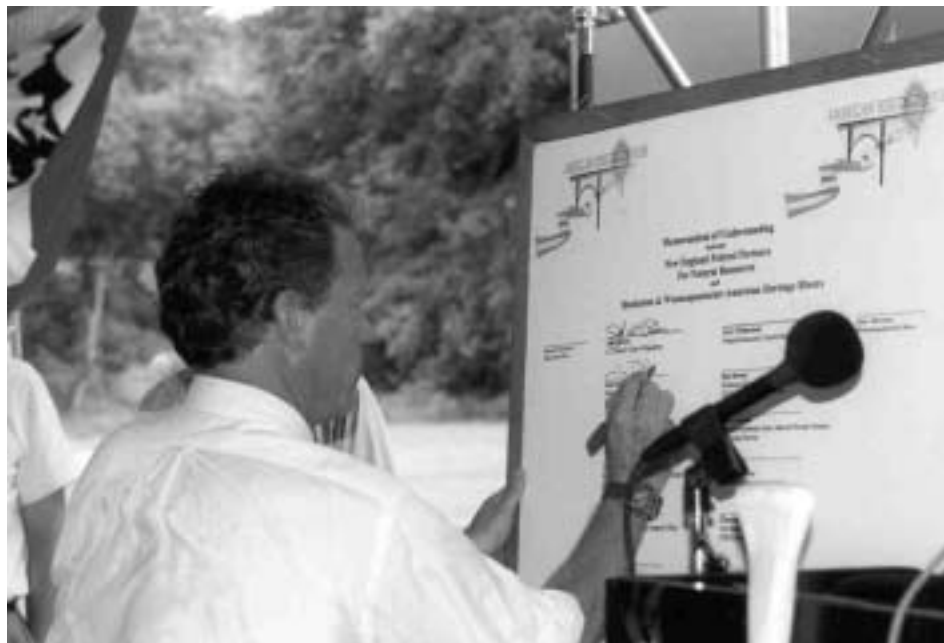
**Willamette - Oregon Governor John  
Kitzhaber signs partnership agreement  
May 1999**



**Rio Grande - Rep. Sylvester Reyes  
signs partnership agreement with CEQ  
Acting Chair George Frampton & Laredo  
Mayor Flores January 1999**

# Some are both

Blackstone  
Woonasquatucket



EPA Region I Administrator  
John Devillars presents check &  
signs ceremonial agreement  
July 1999

# Partners learn from each other

**AHR Community Partners  
Meeting, Washington DC  
September 1999**



**Community Partners/ River  
Navigators Roundtable  
Hartford, Conn.  
November 1999**



# Agencies benefit too

## ■ **Performance:**

- ◆ Enhance federal agency missions
- ◆ Improve delivery and coordination of services
- ◆ Leverage resources (federal and non-federal)
- ◆ Expand professional development

## ■ **Communications:**

- ◆ Increase public awareness of agency programs
- ◆ Increase agency awareness of community-based programs

# What Federal Agencies Are Required to do [Under E.O. 13061]

- **coordinate "plans, functions, programs, and resources** to preserve, protect, and restore rivers and their associated resources..."
- "...help **identify resources in the private and nonprofit sectors** to aid revitalization efforts..."
- "... **develop partnerships** with State, local, and tribal governments and community and nongovernmental organizations..."



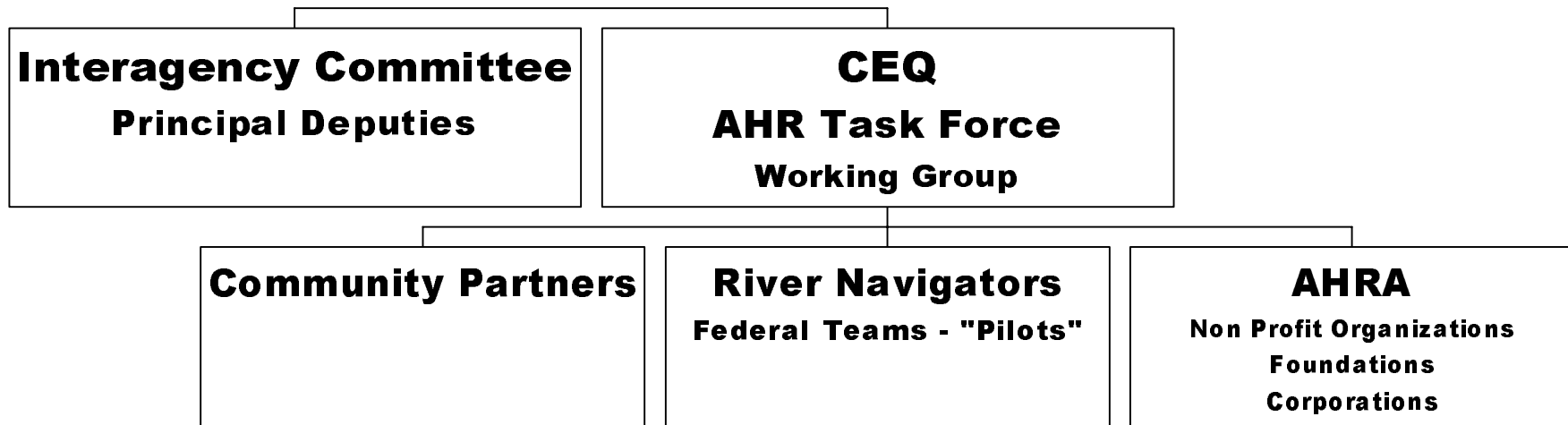
# What Federal agencies must do [under E.O. 13061]

- "...establish a method for field offices to **assess the success** of the American Heritage River initiative and
- "...**recommend changes** that will improve the delivery and accessibility of Federal services and programs."

# Structure of Initiative



## American Heritage Rivers Organization E.O. 13061



# AHR

## Interagency Committee



- **Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality**
- **Attorney General**
- **Secretaries of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, HUD, Transportation, & Energy**
- **Administrator, EPA**
- **Chairs, Advisory Council on Preservation, NEA, NEH; and**
- **[Invited] - Secretary of Education; Director, FEMA; Administrators of GSA and SBA**

# Interagency Working Group



**Working Group Meeting, November 1999. Members from GSA, NRCS/Agriculture, Army COE/DoD, Department Education, NOAA/Commerce, OSM/Interior, DOE, NPS/Interior, EDA/Commerce, ACHP, DOT and EPA.**

# River Navigators

- St. John's - Barbara Elkus, EPA
- Detroit - John Hartig DOT - St Lawrence Seaway, U.S. Coast Guard
- Lower Mississippi - Commander Robert Atkin, U.S. Coast Guard
- Upper Mississippi River- Owen Dutt , Army Corps of Eng.
- Blackstone& Woonasquatucket – Johanna Hunter, EPA
- Hanalei – Jan Surface, Makaala Kaaumoana, Johanna Gomez

# River Navigators

- Connecticut – Dan Burke ,USFW
- Cuyahoga – Steven Davis USFS
- Hudson – J. Eric Scherer – USDA
- New River – Ben Borda – Army Corps of Engineers
- Potomac – Glenn Kinser – NPS
- Rio Grande – Miguel Flores, GSA

# River Navigators

- Upper  
Susquehanna /  
Lackawanna – Alex  
Rogers, EPIX
- Willamette – Paul  
Jeske, BLM

# Three major objectives

- **Environmental/Natural Resources**
- **Historical/Cultural Resources**
- **Economic Development/  
Community Revitalization**



# **Environmental**

- **Improve water quality and quantity**
- **Restore fish & wildlife habitats**
- **Restore riparian areas & wetlands**
- **Replant trees and natural vegetation**
- **Create new parks and enhance outdoor recreation**

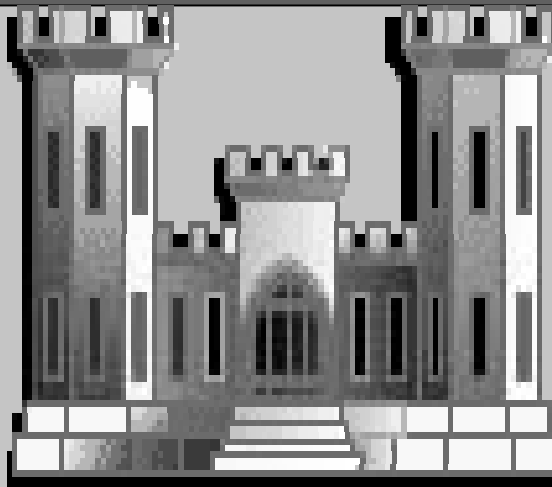
# Cultural

- **Identify and preserve community heritage**
- **Protect archaeological resources**
- **Restore and reuse historic structures**
- **Celebrate local arts, crafts and folklife**

# Economic

- **Revitalize waterfronts**
- **Redevelop Brownfields**
- **Find productive uses for abandoned buildings & industrial sites**
- **Help existing businesses & encourage new ones**

Planning Assistance to States



*Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District*



# Programs

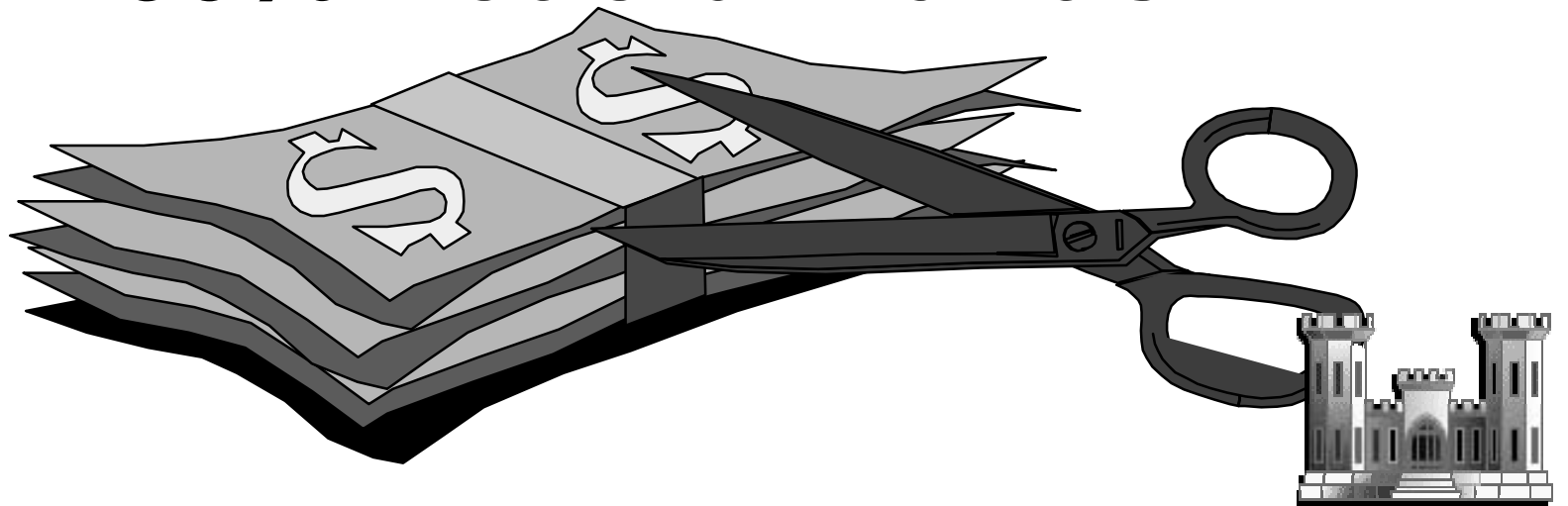
- Flood Plain Management Service (FPMS)
- Planning Assistance to States (PAS)
- Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)

# **Planning Assistance to States (PAS)**

- **Congress has authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to use their technical expertise in:**
  - **Providing Planning Assistance to each State and all Federally Recognized Indian Tribes**
  - **Comprehensive Water Resources Planning**

# Planning Assistance to States

- ***50% non-Federal Funds***
- ***50% Federal Funds***



# Planning Assistance to States

## Category of Studies

- ***“Anything”* with water resource ties**
- **Flood Damage Reduction**
- **Master Planning**
- **Riverfront Development**
- **Environmental/Recreational Planning (Ecotourism)**
- **Hydrology Studies**
- **Water and Wastewater Supply**
- **Water Quality Studies**
- **Mapping**

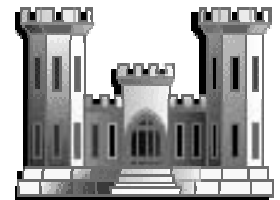




# Planning Assistance to States (PAS)

## New Orleans District

- One of the more popular, flexible, and well-known “customer oriented” programs offered by the NOD
  - ◆ State Agencies (DOTD, DHH, DNR, etc.)
  - ◆ Local Municipalities
  - ◆ Indian Tribes (Three Federally recognized)
  - ◆ Other non-Federal parties
    - ◆ Chambers of Commerce
    - ◆ Universities
    - ◆ Task Forces

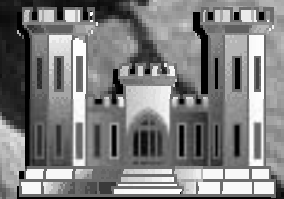


# **Planning Assistance to States**

## **New Orleans District - Category of Studies**

### **"Specific Markets / Initiatives on the Horizon"**

- **Flood Preparedness Planning**
- **Comprehensive Performance Evaluations**
- **Bicycle Transportation Corridors**
- **Municipal Solid Waste**
- **BROWNFIELDS**
- **Geographic Information System (GIS) Planning and Implementation**
- **Tribal Planners and Engineers**
- **Riverfront Development**
- **Ecotourism Master Planning**

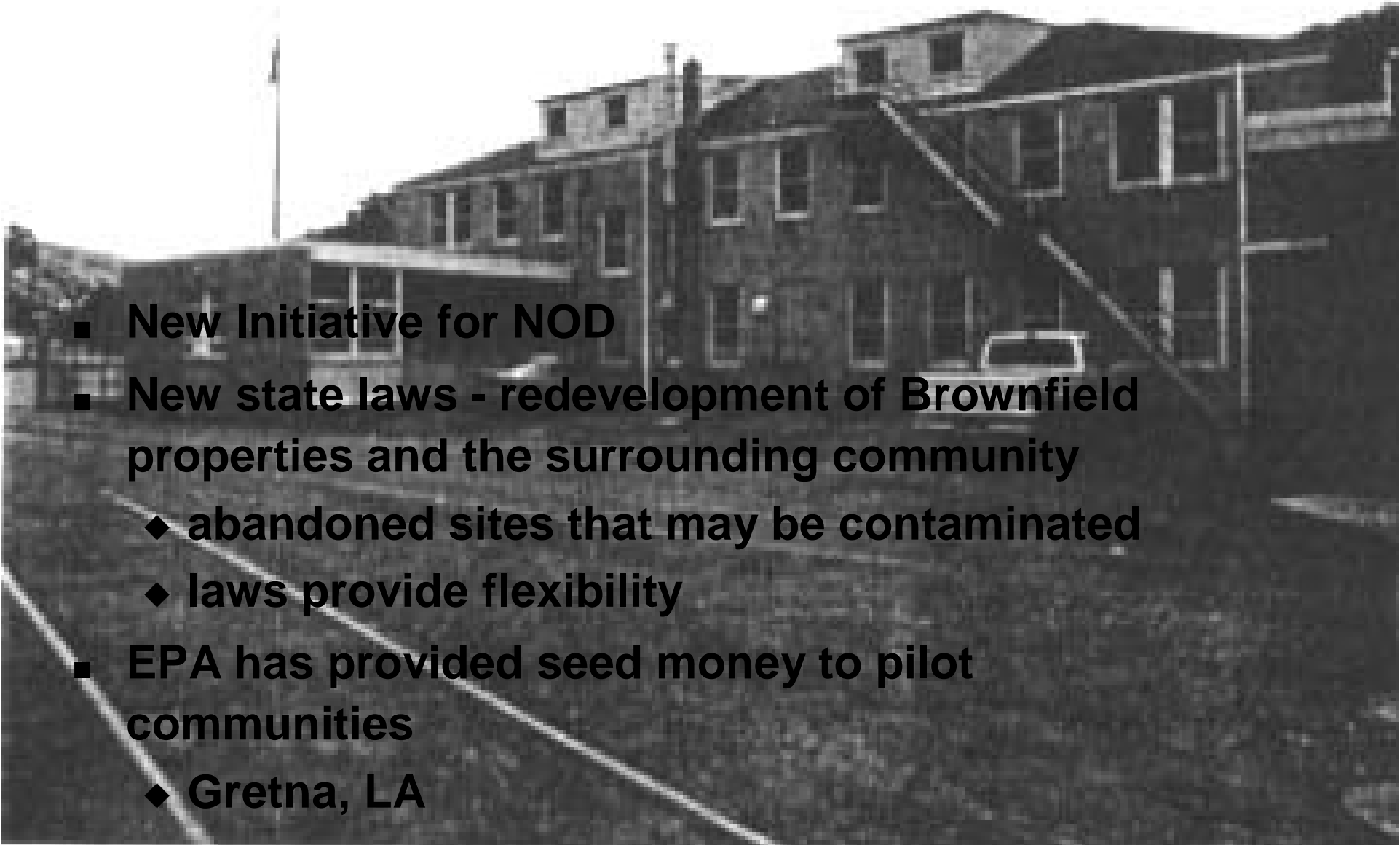


# Specific Markets - Bike Paths

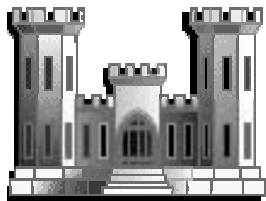


- Demand for recreational facilities throughout NOD
  - ◆ Parish
  - ◆ Residents
  - ◆ Tourist/Visitors
- Facilitate process
  - ◆ Public/Agency Involvement (Landowners, Residents, Parish officials and department heads, Special Interest Groups, FHWA, LADOTD, and COE)
- Provide technical expertise for planning and designing recreational facilities

# Specific Markets - Brownfields

- 
- New Initiative for NOD
  - New state laws - redevelopment of Brownfield properties and the surrounding community
    - ◆ abandoned sites that may be contaminated
    - ◆ laws provide flexibility
  - EPA has provided seed money to pilot communities
    - ◆ Gretna, LA

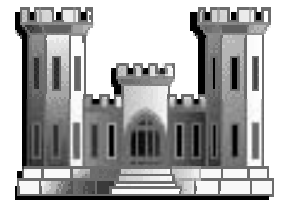
# Levee Bicycle Path Projects



# Levee Bicycle Path Projects

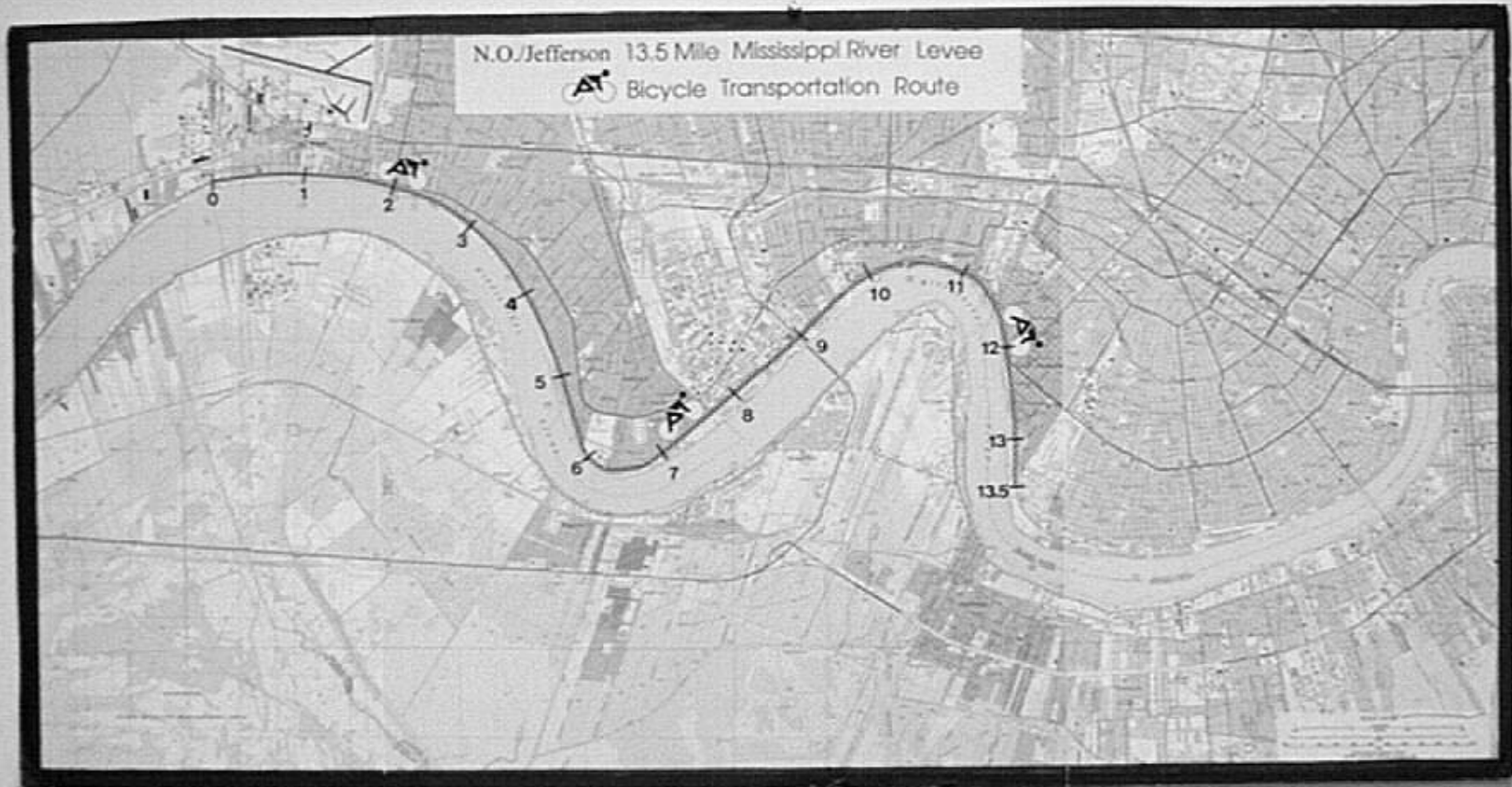
Corps develops the Planning Team :

- **Local Government Officials**
- **LADOTD**
- **Federal Highway Administration**
- **Metropolitan Planning Organization**
- **Levee Board Personnel**
- **Industry/Facility Officials**
- **Bicycle Community Support**

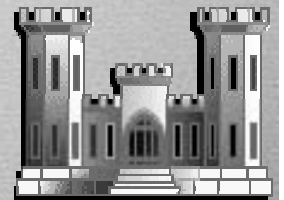


# Levee Bicycle Path Projects

Jefferson/Orleans 13.5 mile path

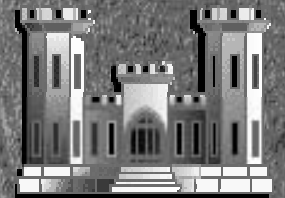


Completed Successful Projects





# Levee Bicycle Path Projects





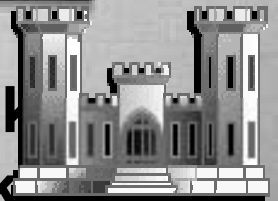
# Levee Bicycle Path Projects



**Projects in Design**

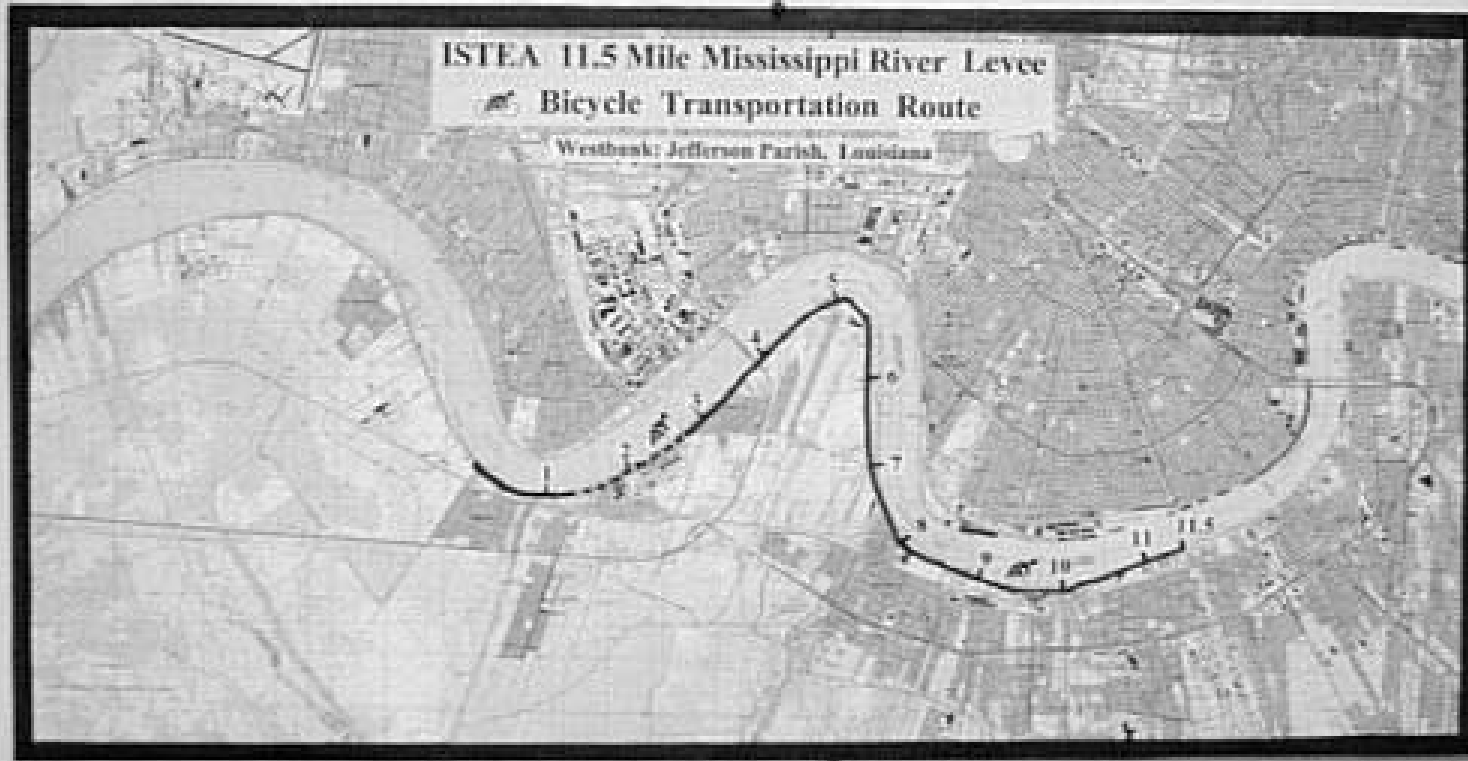
**St. Charles Parish MRL 16.5 miles East Bank**

**St. Charles Parish MRL 18 miles West Bank**

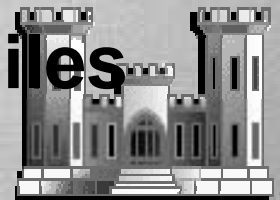


# Levee Bicycle Path Projects

## Possible Future Projects



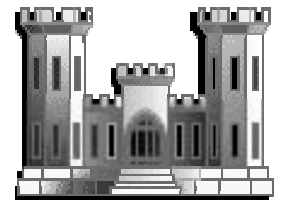
**Jefferson Parish MRL West Bank 11.5 miles**



# Levee Bicycle Path Projects

## Possible Future Projects

- **Plaquemines Parish MRL East Bank 5-10 miles**
- **St. Bernard Parish MRL East Bank 5-10 miles**
- **Morgan City Combination Levee and Street shoulders**
- **East Baton Rouge MRL 2-10 miles**
- **Port Allen MRL 1-2 miles**
- **Gretna MRL West Bank 1-2 miles**

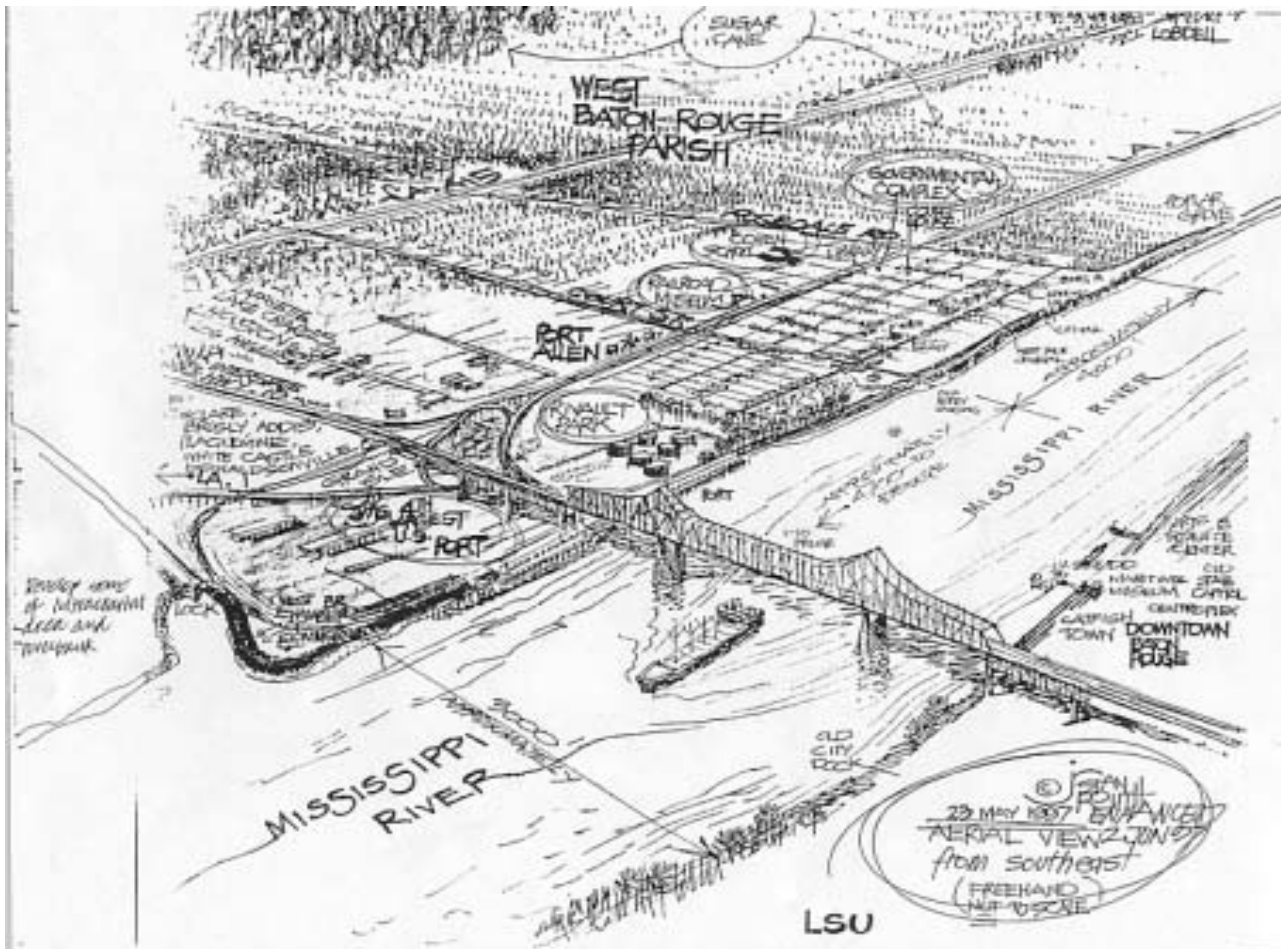


# Riverfront Development

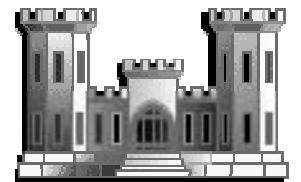


# Gateway to the West

## *Riverfront Development along the Mississippi*



**WEST BATON  
ROUGE CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**



# Partnership

- Riverfront Development Partnership
  - ◆ West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce
  - ◆ Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
  - ◆ Public and Private Investors

## **Advance “the visions of development”**

**commercial development**

**wharf development**

**recreational facilities**

**interpretive areas**

**bike/walking paths/trails**

# Partnership

- Corps of Engineers offered planning assistance to
  - ◆ Planning Assistance to States Program
  - ◆ 50/50 cost shared program
  - ◆ Water Resource Activity Umbrella
- Executed between WBR Chamber and COE August 96 – Master Plan a success
- WRDA 1999 authorized Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design based on a justified report currently underway
  - ◆ Being completed by the Corps of Engineers and West Baton Rouge Parish

# Study Team

- Public
- WBR Chamber of Commerce
- City of Port Allen
- Corps of Engineers
  - ◆ A/E Consultants
    - ❖ Gulf Engineers, Inc.
    - ❖ Center for Landscape Interpretation
    - ❖ Aguilar Group, Inc.
- Looking for support and input from Private Investors





# Economic Market Study

- **Real Estate**

- ◆ **Tracts less than 10 acres (\$1.58 per sq. ft.)**
- ◆ **Tracts between 30 and 50 acres (avg. cost \$0.19 per sq. ft.)**

- **Potential Visitation**

- ◆ **Tourism is #2 industry in WBR**
- ◆ **1995 yielded 20.5 million visitors to Louisiana**
  - 8% specifically go to Baton Rouge,**
  - spent \$390 million**
- ◆ **W BR ranks 18 out of 64 parishes for tourism expenditures**



# Economic Market Study

- **Retail Business**
  - ◆ Every segment continues to grow
  - ◆ Rents continue to increase
- **Attractions**
  - ◆ Shopping, Gambling, Heritage Tourism, Nightlife, Cultural Events, Theme Park, Restaurant
- **Public Participation is necessary for success**
  - ◆ Visions of community vary significantly
- **Benefit from Tourist dollar**
- **Increase Property Tax Base**



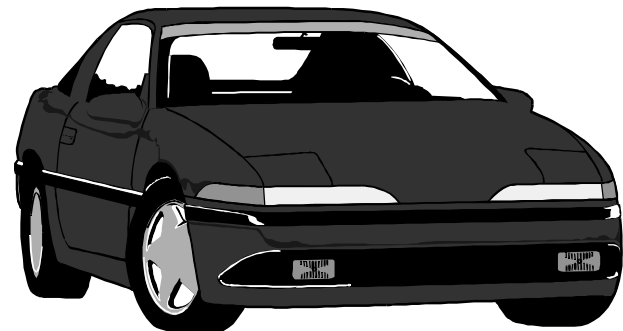
# Environmental Analysis

- Various species of Vegetation
- Wildlife habitat primarily confined to batture
- No apparent threatened or endangered species
- Wetlands exist
  - ◆ Corps and other agency permits
- Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste
  - ◆ Potential Concerns
  - ◆ Phase 1 analysis (records review)
  - ◆ Phase 2 analysis (site testing)
- Cultural Resources
  - ◆ Archaeological survey prior to construction



# Transportation Analysis

- Maritime Shipping - 4th in tonnage
- 3 Railroad Companies
- Major Highway Routes (I-10, US190, LA1)
- Consider DOTD programmed improvements
- Consider Heritage Trail
- High-speed Ferry, pedestrian trails
- Deficiencies
  - ◆ perception of crossing river is difficult
  - ◆ design flaw at I-10 and I-110 juncture
  - ◆ confusion with I-10 and LA1 interchange
  - ◆ LA1 streetscaping
  - ◆ Court Street streetscaping



# Engineering Constraints

- Typical design constraints for landside development
- Unique constraints to levee and river side development
  - ◆ Coordinate with Corps, Coast Guard, Port Authorities, Atchafalaya Levee District, and host of other agencies

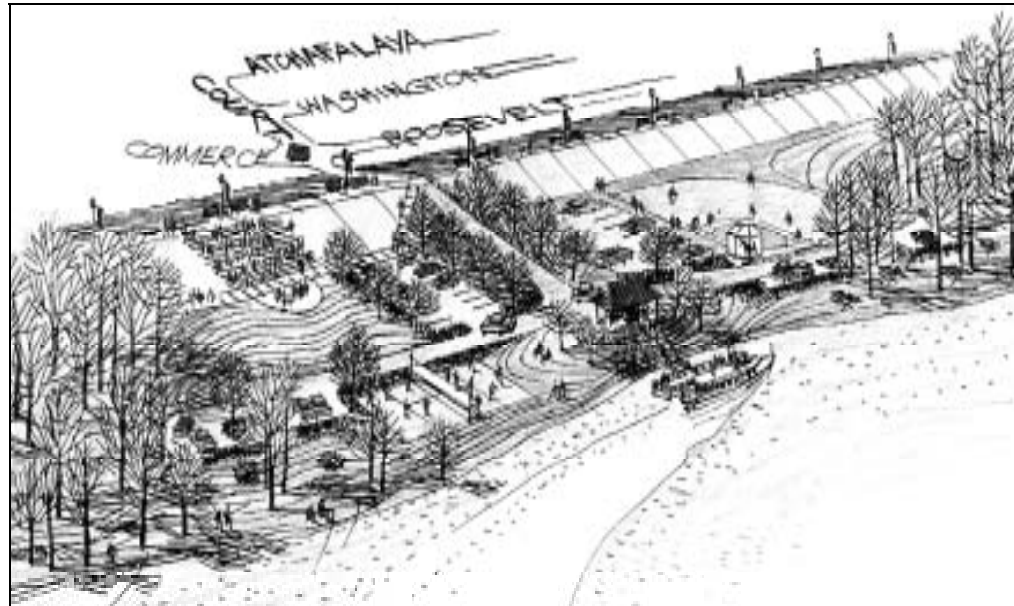


# Potential Sites

- **Adjacent to Incorporated Areas**
  - ◆ **Port Allen, Addis, and Brusly**
  - ◆ **Potential linkages outside of WBR**
  - ◆ **Investigated**
    - ✦ **Court Street**
    - ✦ **Rosedale Road**
    - ✦ **The Oaks Avenue**

# Batture Shelf Development

- **Program**
  - ◆ Parking
  - ◆ Parks, Recreation
  - ◆ Entertainment, Educational
- **Unique Features**
  - ◆ Levee Road enhancement
  - ◆ trails, bike paths, ball fields
  - ◆ Amphitheater
  - ◆ Removable features
- **Opportunities**
  - ◆ Affordable
  - ◆ Flexible
  - ◆ Views
  - ◆ Immediately implementation
- **Unique Constraints**
  - ◆ Seasonal use, no substantial structures,
  - ◆ Potential damage/loss to improvements
  - ◆ non or minimal revenue generating
- **Cost of \$2.25 per square foot**



# Landside Development

- **Program - Unlimited**
- **Unique Features**
  - ◆ **Observation Tower**
  - ◆ **Scott's Cemetery**
  - ◆ **Enhanced Streetscaping**
- **Opportunities**
  - ◆ **Linked to Court Street Redevelopment and infill policy**
- **Unique Constraints**
  - ◆ **Impacts to adjacent neighborhoods**
  - ◆ **Land acquisition**
  - ◆ **Viewing and accessing river**
  - ◆ **Relocation of residences**
  - ◆ **Roadway realignment**
- **Cost of \$100 per square foot**





# Landside and Batture Development



# Baton Rouge Riverfront



# Baton Rouge Riverfront



# Gretna Riverfront

